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ABSTRACT

New Start, a public service program sponsored by Spoon River College (Illinois) in cooperation with local public agencies and individuals in the community, was created to provide broad-based quality education, which includes both academic and vocational skills and personalized educational placement and counseling. Students qualify for New Start by meeting one of the following requirements: four-member family income less than $7,386 annually; recipient of public aid; non-high school graduate or reading level below 7.0; pattern of unemployment; or arrest record. Aspects of the program include: (1) compensatory education courses, i.e., an Adult Basic Education (ABE) course designed for those with extensive reading problems, pre-General Education Development (GED) courses in reading and mathematics, and a GED review; (2) vocational skills education at the college; (3) an outreach tutor who travels to the homes of students who cannot attend regular classes; (4) a recruitment, accountability, and placement (RAP) coordinator who gives special assistance to public aid recipients; (5) personal and vocational counseling; and (6) staff development. The program had 741 participants during 1977-1978. Of these, 549 were new enrollees; 543 were enrolled in the pre-GED and GED review courses; 115 acquired their GED certificates; and 337 have furthered their education at the college. (MB)

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ED169983

NEW START
General Education (G.E.D.), Job Skills,
& Job Placement

A
Summary
July 1, 1977 -- June 30, 1978

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Paula Danowski

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to
Spoon River College Board of Trustees
Illinois Community College Board
Illinois Board of Higher Education
Illinois Office of Education

from

Gary J. Conti, Director Continuing Education
Paula Danowski, Director New Start
Chuck Kneedy, New Start Field Assistant
Jean Wilde, RAP Coordinator

JC 790 282

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Acknowledgements

As Director of New Start, I would like to take this opportunity to express appreciation to those individuals whose assistance and concern has been paramount in the success of the program.

Gratitude is expressed to the Spoon River College Board of Trustees, the Illinois Community College Board, the Illinois Board of Higher Education, the Illinois Office of Education and the Illinois Department of Public Aid for their support of "New Start" during 1977-1978.

Special appreciation is extended to Mr. Jim Raridon. Without his continuous understanding, patience and direction, New Start would only have been an idea instead of a reality.

The Department of Public Aid in Fulton, Mason, McDonough and Schuyler Counties has been very supportive of the project for which we are grateful.

Also a special note of appreciation to Mr. Jack Pickard, Mrs. Carol Kreiling, Mr. Gary Grzanich, and Mr. Don Galloway for their assistance in identifying disadvantaged students.

Gratitude is expressed to the Spoon River College administration, faculty and staff for their support over the past year.

NEW START STATISTICS

	Sp '76	F '76	Sp '77	F '77	Sp '78
Headcount (Not G.E.D.)	116	139	142	189	151
G.E.D. Headcount		112	144	150	126
Total Headcount		251	286	339	286
FTE (Not G.E.D.)	57	82	78	88	90
G.E.D. FTE		23	28	30	25
Total FTE		105	106	118	115*

Total - Unduplicated New Start Headcount Summary

1974-75	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78
339	473	694	741

As of June 30, 1978, 487 "New Start" students have passed the G.E.D. Exam since the program began in March of 1974.

NEW START STUDENT'S G.P.A.

	F '75	Sp '76	S '76	F '76	Sp'77	S '77	Sp '78
N.S. G.P.A.	2.97	2.73	3.00	2.68	2.82	3.06	2.74
**Grads G.P.A.	3.15	3.05	3.04	2.61	2.64	2.98	2.94

*Sp '76 statistics computed on 2-25-76
Sp '77 statistics computed on 2-11-77
Sp '78 statistics computed on 1-17-78

**Grads means those students who have passed the G.E.D. Exam and are continutig their education at SRC.

INTRODUCTION

Spoon River College, in cooperation with local public agencies and individuals within the community who are concerned and aware of the need for adult education, continues to offer a comprehensive public service program meeting community needs. This disadvantaged student grant program, "New Start", was funded through the Illinois Community College Board and the Illinois Office of Education for the fiscal year 1978. The program, now in its fifth year, has proved very successful in the Spoon River College District.

PHILOSOPHY

The public service program, "New Start", was created to assist those adults who for various reasons were deprived of their basic right to an education of such a level as to become self-sufficient. With this idea in mind, "New Start" strives for a broad-based quality education which includes both academic and vocational skills along with personalized educational placement and counseling. Because of the rural area in which we are based, to make our philosophy applicable to all adults within the Spoon River College District, educational opportunities must be taken to each prospective student.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The following are general program objectives which each "New Start" staff member strives to accomplish:

A. Assist other public service agencies within the Spoon River College District in informing and acquainting their clientele with the educational opportunities available.

B. Recruit and place the adult student into an Adult Basic Education or General Education Development course if the student is a non-high school graduate or is deficient in basic educational skills.

C. Recruit and place the adult student into a vocational skills course, transfer education course, or curriculum based upon both aptitude and preference.

D. Develop the qualities of self-confidence and meaningful goal aspirations within the student through individualized counseling.

E. Assist the student in selecting a vocation commensurate with the student's aptitude, interest, and ability.

F. Conduct follow-up studies relevant to both the need of the students already placed and to the refinement of the program.

PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

The program director, field assistant, and R.A.P. Coordinator act upon referrals from cooperating public agencies in locating disadvantaged persons in the Spoon River College District. The program director enrolls, places, and counsels students in the program who are from the Canton, Lewistown, Farmington, Macomb, and Rushville areas. The field assistant functions as the program director in the Havana area. The R.A.P. Coordinator works closely with those "New Start" students who are welfare recipients along with local Public Aid offices and personnel. These staff members are in contact with the referral agency for each participant in order to report progress, discuss problems, and receive new information which will aid in counseling the student.

Spoon River College counselors assist the "New Start" staff members through administering vocational preference tests and conducting follow-up vocational counseling. They have also been very helpful in counseling "New Start" students who have special problems.

Spoon River College instructors continue to take a strong interest in "New Start" participants and work closely with the program staff in

order to be aware of the particular problems of the disadvantaged student. During this past year, many SRC instructors participated in a local in-service workshop which emphasized and dealt with the teaching of the adult student. This helped to enhance the purpose and meaning of the "New Start" Program.

PARTICIPANTS

Adhering to the basic philosophy of the program, "New Start" serves the entire Spoon River College District by going to the students in their locations rather than asking the student to come to the main campus. Therefore, during July, 1977, through June, 1978, "New Start" was active in four counties. A total of 741 students were active in the program throughout the year. Below is a list of all active students enrolled from each area:

Fulton County
  Canton - 434
  Lewistown - 21

McDonough County
  Macomb - 167

Schuyler County
  Rushville - 52

Mason County
  Havana - 67

From July 1, 1977, through June 30, 1978, there were 594 new students in the "New Start" program with the breakdown per county as follows:

Fulton County
  Canton - 347
  Lewistown - 21

McDonough County
  Macomb - 141

Schuyler County
  Rushville - 40

Mason County
Havana - 45

Using the total active figure of 741 students, the program had a breakdown of 319 males and 422 females, with the age range of 16 to 70. Students qualify for "New Start" by meeting one of the following requirements:

1) Four member family income less than $7,386 annually
2) Recipient of public aid
3) A non-high school graduate or reading level below 7.0
4) Pattern of unemployment
5) Arrest history

Public service agencies have cooperated by referring students to "New Start" for training. They have contributed greatly to the success of the program.

From July 1, 1977, through June 30, 1978, around three-hundred persons have been referred to the program:

Agency	# Referred
Fulton County Public Aid	34
McDonough County Public Aid	5
Schuyler County Public Aid	21
Mason County Public Aid	7
Rushville High School	1
Mcomb High School	11
Canton High School	23
Havana High School	3
Lewistown High School	2
SRC Staff	103
Dept. of Voc. Rehabilitation	14
CETA	31
Community Workshops	10
Project Insight	1
Regional Superintendents	7
International Beauty Academy	3
SRC Students	41
McDonough County Job Service	1
Youth Service Bureau	1

In addition, "New Start" students referred 115 new students to the program. There were 33 walk-ins and 71 students were informed of the program through SRC ads and schedules.

STUDENT PARTICIPATION

During the past year, Spoon River College and the "New Start" Program implemented the Adult Basic Education (ABE) course. This class was designed specifically for those students who have extensive problems in reading. These students entered the program with very low reading levels, and are continuing their studies within these classes. The Adult Basic Education I is for those students whose reading level is 0-3, while the Adult Basic Education II is for those students with a reading level of 3-7.

These courses were offered in three locations with the following enrollments:

Canton Community Workshop	8
SRC Main Campus	6
Macomb Attendance Center	15
TOTAL	29

It was discovered over a period of time that in some instances it was more beneficial for a number of the students to be enrolled in the ABE and the Pre-G.E.D. courses simultaneously. This way the student could concentrate on reading and also on Pre-G.E.D. math. Of the above numbers, 16 were enrolled in both ABE and Pre-G.E.D.

The Pre-G.E.D. class serves those students whose reading level was too high for the ABE class yet too low for G.E.D. level materials. Students' reading levels are determined by administering Form X of the Stanford Achievement Test upon entrance into the class. During this summary period, 256 students were enrolled in Pre-G.E.D. Review, with enrollment figures per center as follows:

Canton - 171
Lewistown - 12
Macomb - 35
Rushville - 17
Havana - 21

Of these figures, 37 students completed Pre-G.E.D. and continued on in the G.E.D. Review course. Pre-G.E.D. completors per center are as follows:

Canton - 23
Lewistown - 2
Macomb - 5
Rushville - 1
Havana - 6

General Education Development (G.E.D.) Review is a course designed to prepare the non-high school graduate for the high school equivalency examination. G.E.D. courses have been most popular to the participants. Students feel that the high school equivalency certificate is important before attempting any vocational skills training or other educational classwork. Many students do not fulfill basic employment qualifications without the G.E.D. certificate. It also seems to give the student the self-confidence he needs in order to pursue other goals.

The G.E.D. Review course is an individualized approach, allowing the student to enroll at any time. While working independently or in a small group, the student uses the instructor (tutor) as a resource and problem-solving person. The programmed materials used in the class, along with the audio-visual materials help to prepare the student to achieve his equivalency certificate.

There are currently six G.E.D. instructors teaching throughout the Spoon River College District. Each instructor plays an important role in the initial success of the student in the "New Start" Program. It is the instructor who sees the student most often and who must give constant support and reassurance that the student can achieve his goals.

During this summary period, 258 students enrolled in G.E.D. Review. (This figure is based on not only new students enrolling in G.E.D., but

also those students who re-enrolled after their 25 week time period had elapsed.) The G.E.D. enrollment per center is as follows:

Canton - 132
Macomb - 63
Havana - 28
Rushville - 27
Lewistown - 8

During this summary period, one-hundred fifteen students have acquired their G.E.D. certificate through the G.E.D. Review course. Twenty others have taken the exam but have not met certification requirements. Many of those have returned to class to continue to work on their weak areas.

Students completing the G.E.D. Review class and earning certificates have shown an average increase of 2.4 grade levels in paragraph meaning and 3.4 grade levels in arithmetic computation as measured by Form X of the SAT upon entering the program and Form W after completion.

The following list shows the number of G.E.D. completers in each city served:

City	# Completed
Canton	57
Lewistown	3
Macomb	19
Rushville	16
Havana	11
Outreach Tutor	8

VOCATIONAL SKILLS

Students come to the "New Start" Program because their present level of education and lack of job skills have made it difficult to find meaningful employment. Many students are taking advantage of the vocational curriculums offered at Spoon River College. Others have begun at Spoon River College and are transferring to senior colleges.

From July 1, 1977, through June 30, 1978, we have shown 337 students continuing their education at Spoon River College. The following is a breakdown of student enrollments:

FULL-TIME

SRC Curriculum	# Students
Secretarial Science/Clerical	12
Licensed Practical Nursing	19
R.N. (Graham Nursing)	2
Business	7
Cosmetology	10
Industrial Electrician	1
Associate of Arts (Transfer Curriculum)	7
Automotive	4
Associate of Science (Transfer Curriculum)	8
Welding	4
Data Processing	5
FMT	2

PART-TIME

SRC Curriculum	# Students
Secretarial Science/Clerical	90
Real Estate	5
Data Processing/Key Punch	3
R.N. (Graham)	1
Business	19
Associate of Arts (Transfer)	31
Welding	10
General Studies	70
Associate of Science (Transfer)	11
Industrial Electrician	5
Law Enforcement	2
Personal Development	7
Emergency Medical Technician	2

The average grade point average of all "New Start" students continuing their education at Spoon River College for Fall of 1977 was 2.88. In Spring of 1978, this figure was 2.74. For those "New Start" students who have received their G.E.D. certificates and are continuing their education at Spoon River College, the average GPA for Fall of 1977 was 2.94. In Spring of 1978, this figure was 2.94. These figures are based on the 4.0 grading system used at Spoon River College.

During SRC Commencement exercises, 1 "New Start" student received a Professional Certificate, 3 received degrees in Associate of Applied Science, and 1 was awarded an Associate in General Education Degree. We also had a total of 11 obtain their LPN Certificates.

OUTREACH TUTOR

Another new component of the "New Start" Program was implemented October 3, 1977, and ran through June 9, 1978. This new feature, Outreach Tutor, "G.E.D. In The Home", was an exciting concept which offered services to those students who otherwise would have been forgotten. The Outreach Tutor traveled to those students' homes who could not attend regularly scheduled Pre-G.E.D. and G.E.D. classes. Various reasons were given by students for their inability to attend classes; the main ones being: lack of transportation, work schedules, and lack of baby-sitters. Since the Outreach Tutor was a CETA sponsored project, and because of the overlapping of CETA Regions within the SRC District, the Outreach Tutor could serve only those students residing in Fulton County and Macomb.

During this eight-month period, a total of 44 students were served by the Outreach Tutor, with the following breakdown:

Fulton County - 39	Male - 11
Macomb - 5	Female - 33

The average entry level reading score was 7.5 while the math was 6.0. As stated earlier, eight students successfully completed the G.E.D. exam. A major purpose of the Outreach Tutor program was to pick up those students whose attendance had ceased at the regularly scheduled classes. We assisted 12 such students and seven of those have now returned to class on a regular basis.

R.A.P. (RECRUITMENT, ACCOUNTABILITY, PLACEMENT) COORDINATOR

In November, 1977, the "New Start" Program and Spoon River College introduced the third new component to the program, the R.A.P. Coordinator. The main goals of this position were to work with and give special assistance to those "New Start" students who were Public Aid recipients, work closely with the four Public Aid offices within the Spoon River College District, and assist the Public Aid student in securing employment.

During this summary period, 87 students were served by the R.A.P. Coordinator with the breakdown as follows:

County	Pre-G.E.D.	G.E.D.	Vocational	Total
Fulton	32	11	15	58
Mason	0	1	1	2
McDonough	1	4	9	14
Schuyler	6	7	0	13
Total	39	23	25	87

Twelve of the Public Aid students successfully completed the G.E.D. exam:

Fulton - 6
McDonough - 2
Schuyler - 4

Along with this, two Public Aid students obtained their LPN Certificates.

COUNSELING

Upon entering the "New Start" Program, students feel little confidence in their ability to succeed. They are apprehensive about the program and the people working with them. Many students have received continuous negative feedback in their lives and feel that they are of little worth to society. The counselors must deal with these problems.

Students receive personal and vocational counseling on a regular basis, not only by the program director, field assistant, and R.A.P. Coordinator, but also by the Spoon River College counselors and G.E.D. instructors.

Public Aid caseworkers have been very helpful in counseling clients enrolled in "New Start" in regard to costs absorbed by Public Aid (i.e., transportation, child care, books, supplies, etc.). They also have shown an interest in the student's progress within the class and encouraged attendance.

The Financial Aid Director at Spoon River College has provided information to "New Start" students regarding financial aid (BEOG, CETA, work study). He has also been a resource person in locating part-time employment for students enrolled in the program.

We have used the Strong Vocational Preference Test as a guide to student's vocational interests. After administration and obtaining scores on the test, follow-up counseling is done in order to develop realistic vocational goals. The "Strong", together with SAT scores, gives a good indication of potential career possibilities.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

During this summary period, a greater emphasis has been placed upon staff development activities for the "New Start" staff mambers. We feel that the experiences and knowledge gained from various conferences and workshops has been invaluable. Some of the workshops and activities attended include the following:

USOE Region V, State and Federal Legislation Workshop
IOE State Administrators Meeting
EMC Schmerler In-Service Workshop
Competency Based Workshops
Pre-Employment & Placement Workshops
Personalized Learning
*Teacher Training
IAEA/PACE
Teaching Reading
The New G.E.D. Test
*APL/CBE
Career Education
Group Dynamics

*Public Speaking
SRC - The Adult Student
SRC - Spring In-Service

*"New Start" staff members were presentors at these workshops.

SUMMARY

The disadvantaged student grant program, "New Start" had 741 non-duplicated participants during this 1977-78 summary period. Of this number, 549 were new enrollees with 543 students enrolled in the Pre-G.E.D. and G.E.D. Review courses. During this summary period, 115 students have acquired their G.E.D. Certificates. Three-hundred thirty-seven have furthered their education at Spoon River College.

During the past year we have implemented 3 new features to the program; the Adult Basic Education courses, the Outreach Tutor, and the R.A.P. Coordinator.

The "New Start" enrollments have shown continuous growth during this summary period. At the current rate of enrollment the outlook for fiscal year 1979 suggests further expansion and growth.

GARY L. GRZANICH
Superintendent

RICHARD ELLINGER
Asst. Supt.

OFFICE OF

EDUCATIONAL SERVICE REGION

FULTON COUNTY COURT HOUSE
LEWISTOWN, ILLINOIS

April 20, 1978

Ms. Paula Danowski
New Start Program
Spoon River College
R. R. #1
Canton, IL. 61520

Dear Ms. Danowski:

As Regional Superintendent of Schools in Fulton County, I want to endorse your Adult Education Program and encourage you to continue your efforts.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Gary L. Grzanich
Regional Superintendent

GLG/cw

STATE OF ILLINOIS
SCHUYLER COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC AID
213 West Washington Street
P. O. Box 111
RUSHVILLE, ILLINOIS 62681

April 11, 1978

Mrs. Paula Danawski
Macomb Attendance Center
208 South Johnson Street
Macomb, Illinois 61455

Dear Mrs. Danawski:

As the year is nearly completed for another New Start Program in Schuyler County we wish to express our appreciation for the services given and the results which have benefited many.

We whole heartedly endorse this program and the cooperative arrangements that exist.

We trust this program will continue in the "78 - 79" year to enable more persons to be aided in securing needed education to become self-supporting or improve their status.

We wish to thank you and the staff for the fine programs we have had and hope we can work together in the coming year.

Very truly yours,

RHB:bw

Ralph H. Blaesing,
Administrator

Schuyler County Department
of Public Aid

Illinois Farmers Union

COUNTIES OF
ADAMS
BROWN
HANCOCK
PIKE
SCHUYLER

C. E. T. A.

April 11, 1978

To Whom It May Concern:

As Vocational and Academic Training Coordinator for the Comprehensive Employment and Training Program for Region 12, I would like to recommend that the New Start Program be continued at Spoon River College. New Start and CETA have been able to compliment each other in the past and I feel New Start is needed to compliment CETA in the future.

If more information is desired, please contact my office.

Sincerely,

John E. Ohnemus (ek)
John E. Ohnemus
Training & Service Coord.

P.O. BOX 608 • 122 SO. 11TH STREET • QUINCY, ILLINOIS 62301 • TELEPHONE 217/224-2366

Illinois Farmers Union

COUNTIES OF
ADAMS
BROWN
HANCOCK
PIKE
SCHUYLER

C. E. T. A.

April 13, 1978

Ms. Paula Danowski
Spoon River College
208 South Johnson
Macomb, IL. 61455

Dear Paula:

As someone who has worked with you and the New Start Program, I would like to commend both you and the program. New Start well serves the Spoon River College district.

In the past, New Start and CETA have complimented each other to better serve our clients. I am sure that the realationship will continue in the future.

Your dedication to New Start correlates with the program's success.

Sincerely,

Vicky Lantz

Vicky Lantz,
Evaluator and Survey Coord.

VL:od

P.O. BOX 608 • 122 SO. 11TH STREET • QUINCY, ILLINOIS 62301 • TELEPHONE 217/ 224-2366

STATE OF ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC AID
FULTON COUNTY
601 South Main Street – P.O. Box 189
LEWISTOWN, ILLINOIS 61542

April 12, 1978

Mrs. Paula Danowski
New Start Director
Spoon River College
R. R. 1
Canton, Illinois 61520

Dear Mrs. Danowski:

As we reflect upon the number of Fulton County Public Aid clients served by the New Start program, we should like to express our appreciation for your splendid cooperation and that of your staff with us.

The New Start program at Spoon River College provides continuing adult education with dignity and purpose. The program provides for immeasurable individual and family enrichment as well as vocational goals.

We plan to continue working closely with you and your staff in the New Start program.

Yours very truly,

Maralee Hagaman

Mrs. Maralee Hagaman
Fulton County Administrator

MH:bj

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP TRAINING CENTER
The "KEY" to Developing Capable Hands

April 12, 1978

Mrs. Paula Danowski
Newstart Director
Spoon River College
R.R. 1
Canton, IL 61520

Dear Mrs. Danowski:

This letter is a confirmation of endorsement for the continuation of The Adult Basic Education Classes under the New Start Program offered by SRC.

The Community Workshop & Training Center, Inc. Administrator and Staff are in accord in total endorsement. The program has proven to be quite successful and well attended by the Community Workshop & Training Center Clients. We feel there is a strong need to offer the program during the summer months for continuity and follow through for the clients being served.

If I may be of assistance to you, please contact my office.

Sincerely,

Pauline A. Matthews

Pauline A. Matthews
Education Coordinator
Fulton County

CANTON HIGH SCHOOL

1001 North Main Street
Canton, Illinois 61520
Frank Mance, Principal

April 7, 1978

To whom it may concern:

It has been my privilege to work cooperatively with the staff members of the New Start Program at Spoon River College for several years. We have found them most helpful and as providing an excellent service to the whole community for persons who have dropped out of high school and need a "new start." In many situations I am convinced the students involved would never have completed school had it not been for the program because of their age, family and work responsibilities, and number of credits they would have needed to graduate from a traditional high school program. Ms. Paula Danowski, the coordinator, has been most helpful and cooperative in working with us to better serve our constituency.

Marilyn Curry
Counselor

[Typed copy of holographic original]

County of McDonough
OFFICE OF EDUCATIONAL SERVICE REGION
130½ South Lafayette Street
Box 556
Macomb, Illinois 61455
Telephone 309-837-4821

JACK PICKARD
Regional Superintendent

JIM HAYNES
Ass't. Reg. Supt.

April 10, 1978

Mrs. Paula Danowski
Director, New Start
Spoon River College
208 S. Johnson St.
Macomb, Illinois 61455

Dear Mrs. Danowski,

We would like to take this opportunity to endorse the continuation of New Start. There has been a noticeable increase annually in the number of people within Spoon River territory requesting the GED test and of even greater importance, a much higher success ratio for those being tested.

Sincerely,

Jack Pickard

Jack Pickard
Regional Superintendent
McDonough County

JP/eh

DONALD H. GALLOWAY
SUPERINTENDENT

SUE R. DOOLIN
SECRETARY

BARBARA J. PAGE
ASST. SUPERINTENDENT

OFFICE OF
BROWN-CASS-SCHUYLER COUNTY EDUCATIONAL SERVICE REGION
PHONE: 217-323-5559
101 WEST 18TH STREET
BEARDSTOWN, ILLINOIS 62618

April 10, 1978

Gentlemen:

As the issuing officer for the General Educational Development (GED) Program for Schuyler County, I wish to commend Spoon River College for their "New Start" course of study offered to residents of the Schuyler County area. The program is gaining in participation each year and several people are obtaining their High School Equivalency Certificate as a result of the instruction they have received in preparation to take the GED Test. The classes are taught two evenings a week in Rushville, the County Seat of Schuyler County.

Paula Donowski, the Coordinator for Spoon River, has worked diligently to develop this program. The program is reaching a segment of our society who missed the opportunity the first time around and now are being given a second change to improve their skills to be more productive.

Any assistance which can be provided will greatly enhance our chances to reclaim many more people at the "grass roots" level. There are many more who need to be encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity.

Sincerely yours,

Donald H. Galloway

Donald H. Galloway
Regional Superintendent

DG:BP

UNIVERSITY OF CALIF.
LOS ANGELES

JUN 8 1979

CLEARINGHOUSE FOR
JUNIOR COLLEGES